

**Summer 2015 Recommended Reading List
Rising Ninth Grade
2015-2016**

Non-Fiction Books

Bethea, Nikole Brooks. *The Science of Bridge Collapse*

This book discusses the science behind bridge collapses and their effects. The chapters examine historical bridge collapses, explain how bridges are designed and built, and show how scientists and engineers are working to prevent future collapses.

Bolden, Tonya. *Searching for Sarah Rector*

Recounts the story of the 1914 disappearance of eleven-year-old Sarah Rector, an African American who was part of the Creek Indian people and whose land had made her wealthy, and what it reveals about race, money, and American society.

Brimner, Larry Dane. *Strike: The Farm Workers' Fight for Their Rights*

Chronicles the history of the farm workers strike of 1965 led by César Chávez and Larry Itliong and the founding of the United Farm Workers of America labor union.

Cooper, Ilene. *A Woman in the House and Senate: How Women Came to the United States Congress, Broke Down Barriers, and Changed the Country*

Profiles a number of the women who have served in the United States Congress.

Cooper, Michael L. *Fighting Fire!: Ten of the Deadliest Fires in American History and How We Fought Them*

Photographs and text describe ten of the deadliest fires in the history of the United States, including the Witch Creek Fire in San Diego County, California, the Great Chicago Fire, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York, and more, and discusses the strategies used to fight these fires.

Jenkins, Martin. *The History of Money: From Bartering to Banking*

Text and illustrations look at the history of money from the Stone Age through the twenty-first century.

Keyser, Amber. *Sneaker Century: A History of Athletic Shoes*

Learn about the latest high-tech models, the global manufacture of sneakers, big money endorsements, and the political aspects of the sneaker world.

LeGrand, Eric. *Believe: The Victorious Story of Eric LeGrand*

Eric LeGrand reflects on his life, discussing his childhood, family, success in high school and college sports, football injury which resulted in paralysis, rehabilitation, and more.

Lewis, J. Patrick. *Harlem Hellfighters*

A regiment of African-American soldiers from Harlem journeys across the Atlantic to fight alongside the French in World War I, inspiring a continent with their brand of jazz music.

Prins, Marcel. *Hidden. Like Anne Frank: Fourteen True Stories of Survival*

Presents a collection of first-person accounts that share what it was like to go into hiding during World War II.

Wallace, Sandra Neil. *Muckers*

Felix O'Sullivan, standing in the shadow of his dead brother, an angry, distant father, and racial tension, must lead the last-ever Muckers high school football team to the state championship before a mine closing shuts down his entire town.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Brown Girl Dreaming*

The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about her life growing up in the North and South.

Fiction Books

Alexander, Kwame. *The Crossover*

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

Condie, Ally. *Atlantia*

Rio has always dreamed of leaving the underwater city of Atlantia for life in the Above; however, when her twin sister, Bay, makes an unexpected decision, Rio is left stranded below where she must find a way to unlock the secrets of the siren voice she has long hidden and save Atlantia from destruction.

Ellis, Sarah. *Outside In*

Lynn has an ideal life, but things are about to change when she meets a mysterious girl named Blossom, whose family lives secretly beneath a city reservoir.

Feinstein, John. *The Walk On*

After moving to a new town during his freshman year in high school, Alex Myers is happy to win a spot on the varsity team as a quarterback but must deal with the idea of not playing for two years since the first-string quarterback is not only a local hero, he is also the son of the corrupt head coach.

Glewwe, Eleanor. *Sparkers*

Marah, an underclass 'sparker' in a society ruled by magicians, works with her friend Azariah to find a cure for a mysterious disease that turns its victims' eyes black.

Hiaasen, Carl. *Skink No Surrender*

With the help of an eccentric ex-governor, a teenaged boy searches for his missing cousin in the Florida wilds.

Littman, Sarah. *Life, After*

When poverty forces her family to leave their home in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Dani has a hard time adjusting to life in New York City, where everything is different except her father's anger. An unlikely bond she forms with a wealthy, spoiled girl at school helps heal both of their families.

Magoon, Kekla. *How It Went Down*

When sixteen-year-old Tariq Johnson is shot to death, his community is thrown into an uproar because Tariq was black and the shooter, Jack Franklin, is white. In the aftermath everyone has something to say, but no two accounts of the events agree.

Parr, Justin Scott Sage. *Carrington, Eighth Grade Science Sleuth*

Every 12-year-old's two favorite words: Summer vacation. No cold weather, no school. Just months of free time ahead. Best friends Sage Carrington and Isabel Flores are making the most of their summer break when they discover an antique treasure map near the Washington Monument. But when faced with difficult clues and a bully in the form of Edwin Hooser, the tween girls must use every bit of imagination, drive, and intellect to outsmart Edwin and decipher the map. Join Sage and Isabel on a journey through the nation's capital as they try to solve the puzzle and recover a priceless bounty.

Reedy, Trent. *If You're Reading This*

For a responsible sixteen-year-old, Michael Wilson has a lot of problems--his father was killed in Afghanistan in 2005, his overworked and overprotective mother will not talk about their situation and does not want him playing football, and he has suddenly started to receive letters that his father wrote before his death.

Tripp, Ben. *The Accidental Highwayman: Being the Tale of Kit Bristol, His Horse Midnight, a Mysterious Princess, and Sundry Magical Persons Besides* In eighteenth-century England, young Christopher "Kit" Bristol unwittingly takes on the task of his dead master, notorious highwayman Whistling Jack, who pledged a fairy he would rescue feisty Princess Morgana from an arranged marriage with King George III.

Vail, Rachel *Unfriended*

When thirteen-year-old Truly is invited to sit at the Popular Table, she finds herself caught in a web of lies and misunderstandings, made unescapable by the hyper-connected social media world.